



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2007

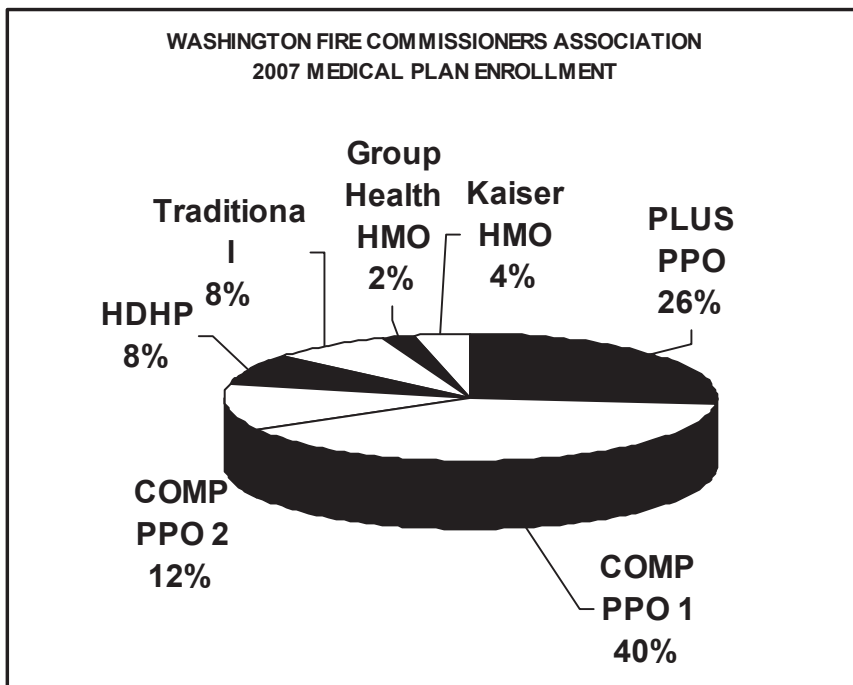
Good, Better, Best

By Tom Treves, WFCA Health Care Manager

The number one choice for health care plans covering paid staff of fire districts in the state of Washington is the WFCA HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.

Welcome back to the fire districts that have returned to the Washington Fire Commissioners Association Health Plan for the 2007 plan year. We had several districts that left the plan in 2006 with the discontinuance of the 100% PPO Plan. With its reinstatement in 2007, many of the participants previously covered are back in the plan. However, not all returned to the 100% PPO plan.

The following distribution shows the percentage of participants in the various plans.



Many districts now offer more than just one plan and an HMO. There are some districts that determined the level of funding and let the employees pay the difference if they wanted to buy-up to a more expensive plan.

The sole purpose of the WFCA Health Care Program is to benefit the fire districts in Washington State. The goal is to provide you with the benefit plan options you are looking for at the lowest possible cost. In addition, a new dividend program has been implemented, as announced

See Good on Page Three

Proposed Bylaw Changes Due

The deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the *WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws* is May 15, 2007.

Please submit proposals to the WFCA at P.O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507, Fax 360.664. 0415 or Email wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

If you would like a copy of the current bylaws for review, visit www.wfca.wa.gov or contact the WFCA office (800.491.9322).

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A Message from the President by Joe Dawson



On Saturday, February 24, 2007 your WFCA Board of Directors held a planning workshop to update the WFCA Strategic Plan. The session was facilitated by Riley & Karen Capton along with Bob Merritt of Emergency Services Consulting inc., better known as ESCi.

The session was well attended by board members and other guests even though winter weather prevented some folks from being there. As we discussed and debated the merits of our current strategic plan we determined that the plan, as adopted in December of 2005, was still valid and sound.

Our task was to evaluate each of our organizational goals in terms of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The board prioritized issues and determined to address the following topics: membership participation in the organization; the current workload level of our staff; our ongoing legislative agenda; and, our health care program.

The revised Strategic Plan will be addressed at a future meeting of the Board of Directors. In the meantime, the current plan is still available on the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov. Simply click the tab "About WFCA" and then click on *Strategic Plan*.

On March 5, 2007, a legislative day was held in Olympia in conjunction with the Washington Fire Chiefs. There was a very large turnout and agency legislative priorities were addressed. You will be informed of the date for next year's legislative day.

Your Board of Directors will be meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco. In addition to our normal reports, we will be addressing the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee recommendations from the 2006 conference along with other issues.

I would be honored to be invited to speak at, or just attend, any of your regional or county meetings.

As you will recall, there were several suggested amendments to our bylaws and the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee recommended that several of the amendments should more appropriately be addressed by the Board. You will be advised of any changes that we consider.

We still have the need to appoint members to the 2007 Nominating Committee. The committee will be chaired by Past President Richard Kistler of Thurston 7. We need to appoint one member from each of the following regions: Region 2 (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Walla Walla & Whitman Counties), Region 4 (Benton, Kittitas, Klickitat & Yakima Counties), Region 6 (King County), and Region 8 (Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties). The committee meets via conference call in August. If you reside in one of these counties and are interested in serving on the committee, please contact the WFCA office (call toll-free 1.800.491.9322 or email wfca@wfca.wa.gov) and in-

form them of your desire to serve.

I would also like to call your attention to the upcoming seminars as outlined in the flyer you received in early March (there is also a registration form on Page 5 of this newsletter). The Education Committee, under the chairmanship of Les Riel, has developed a fine series of classes for us. Planning and Budgeting will be featured in Spokane and Ocean Shores and Effective Communication, a result of the extensive survey conducted by Washington State University, will be featured at Lake Chelan. I cannot encourage you enough to participate in any of these seminars. They are designed to help us all become better, more informed commissioners.

Finally, I would be honored to be invited to speak at, or just attend, any of your regional or county meetings. I can be reached at dawsonjoep@aol.com. As I choose not to open email from anyone whose email address I am unfamiliar with, please simply title any email to me WFCA. Thank you.

ON THE WEB

Check out the WFCA website for current position announcements and equipment sales in the "Classified Ads" section. Log onto www.wfca.wa.gov.





I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of training and continuing education for employees at all levels. Firefighters and EMTs are on the line daily providing exceptional customer service in the field. It's critical for them to have that continual training to keep skills current, but what about the administrative staff back at the station?

When citizens call or walk into a station the administrative personnel are generally the public's first contact – and thereby first impression of how you do business. Often times we overlook the importance of making sure support staff is knowledgeable on the state laws related to fire districts as well as the many legal requirements regarding proper management of information and documents, not to mention how to properly communicate with both external and internal customers. By providing educational opportunities to your staff, you are assuring knowledgeable, professional service in your administrative offices.

In that vein, please consider the upcoming WFAS 2007 Annual Conference to be held Monday, April 30 through Wednesday, May 2 at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane.

This year's program includes professional speakers who will cover Customer Relations, Time Management, Professionalism, Business Communication, Stress Management, as well as Assertiveness and Conflict Management. We have also scheduled a roundtable discussion on a variety of topics important to fire service administrative services that will be facilitated by Assistant Chiefs Rich Elliott of Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue and Brian Schaeffer of Spokane Fire.

For additional details, see our registration and information packet on the Administrative Support Section page

of the Washington Fire Chief's web site (www.washingtonfirechiefs.org), or go straight to the on-line registration form at <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=122086>.

As an incentive, though the deadline has already passed, you may use Special Discount Code "WFCA07" to register at the early bird price! The cost for full registration is \$265. Registrants may also attend a single day for \$100.

For room reservations, you may call the Red Lion at 800.733.5466, and let them know you are with Washington Fire Administrative Support. Unfortunately at this late date, conference rates are no longer guaranteed, so you may wish to compare the pricing and/or availability at nearby hotels.

This is a great chance for administrative personnel to hone or learn new skills that may be utilized to the benefit of both themselves and the district. Needless to say, the added opportunity for networking is invaluable! We also have a 1½ day workshop scheduled in Wenatchee on October 15-16. If you are unable to send someone to training this year, please keep us in mind in 2008 when we will be celebrating our first 25 years at the Heathman Hotel in Vancouver. High caliber speakers are being lined up now – our goal is to offer a quality educational experience at each event.

I look forward to seeing new faces at this and future FAS training workshops and conferences. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

*Kathy Streissguth,
WFAS Section Chair*

*Administrative Assistant,
Clark County Fire District 12*

kstreissguth@ccfd12.org

National Effort to Eliminate Novelty Lighters

Oregon State Fire Marshal, Nancy Orr, is leading a nationwide effort in calling for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to prohibit the sale and distribution of novelty lighters. Her office has partnered with The Idea Bank to create a video-based web page (www.theideabank.com/psa/NoveltyLighters.html) to gather fire incident data.

The sale of novelty lighters has already been banned in Europe. Orr points out that gathering incident reports is pivotal to getting novelty lighters banned in this country. That's because the CPSC requires nationwide data before considering changes to existing regulations.

Good from Page One

during the WFCA conference, which will distribute underwriting gains to districts participating in the medical plan.

We're pleased to note that year-to-date in 2007, the plan is operating in the black. To be eligible for a dividend, a district must be in the plan in 2007, and remain in the plan in 2008 until the dividend is paid, sometime in April. This program ensures that the districts utilizing the plan will realize the lowest possible cost for health care.

The WFCA HEALTHCARE PROGRAM offers the most comprehensive coverage available through: four PPO offerings; two HMOs; the Traditional plan for LEOFF 1; four dental plans; core and basic life insurance; as well as voluntary life insurance. The plan offers coverage for LEOFF 1 & 2 Fire Professionals, EMTs, PERS employees, Fire Commissioners and for all Retirees.

Please let us know how we can be of service to your district—our goal is to be the **BEST** healthcare plan for your district.

Promotions at the State Fire Marshal's Office

The following is a media release by the Washington State Patrol

State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick is pleased to announce the promotion of two Fire Protection Bureau members.

Mr. Frank Garza has accepted the position of Fire Training Academy Administrator and Ms. Melissa Gannie has accepted the position of Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Basic Firefighter Program and the Fire Standards, Accreditation and Certification Program.

Mr. Garza came to the Fire Protection Bureau in 2003 after 32

successful years with the Tacoma Fire Department where he promoted through the ranks to Battalion Chief, working five years as the Training Supervisor.

Ms. Gannie has been a member of the Fire Protection Bureau for nearly 10 years. She began her career with the Washington State Patrol – Fire Protection Bureau in a clerical support role. She then promoted to Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal assigned to Fire and Life Safety Inspections.

In 2002, she was promoted to

Deputy State Fire Marshal assigned to the National Fire Incident Reporting System, a program that collects fire response information for fire agencies throughout Washington State.

State Fire Marshal Matlick adds, "I am extremely excited about the abilities that both Frank and Melissa bring to their new positions. I am confident their contributions will be beneficial to our organization and to the Washington State Fire Service."

Ads

FOR SALE by Mountain View Fire & Rescue: Compair (MAKO) One Step CO Monitor. The One Step Monitor is a Carbon Monoxide Monitoring System that will easily hook up to any type of breathing air compressor. It's a fully functional unit that was pulled from a working system. The Monitor is in excellent condition and includes operating and instruction manual. Asking \$2,500 or best offer. Contact Mike Stankus, KCFD 44, 253.735.0284 or email mstankus@kcf44.org.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by San Juan 3 (Friday Harbor): District is recruiting qualified candidates for the position of Fire Chief for its career/volunteer district.

Experience: 10 yrs of progressively responsible exper in the fire svc, @ least 5 of which were in a command-lvl position (exper in the mgmt & delivery of trng, exper in interagency coordination w/fire & wildland protection agencies—ability to gain red-card certification w/i 12 mos of date of hire, exper in working w/vol/part-pd FF, exper & training in NIMS & NWCG ICS).

Training: Successful completion or enrolled in upper-lvl mgmt/supervision graduate-lvl courses, such as the NFA Exec Ofcr program, etc.

Physical/Background: Must pass district's

med'l req & thorough background investigation (non-smoker).

License/Certifications: Possess, or able to obtain, a WDL—EVAP trng req w/i 6 mos of date of hire.

Residence: Must reside w/i the district on San Juan Island.

Salary Range: \$70,000-\$85,000 DOQ, exc ben, 2 yr renewable employment contract.

The Process: Download application, exam questions & job profile (application package) at www.esci.us. Candidate must submit, by 4 pm on 5/10/07, a personal resume, application & requested documents for the position to San Juan Co FPD 3, c/o Emergency Services Consulting inc, 25200 SW Parkway Ave, Ste 3, Wilsonville, OR 97070, 1.800.757.3724. The resume must specifically describe how the candidate's qualifications meet the requirements of the position, including all previous (applicable) education and training. An assessment process is scheduled for June 9-10, 2007, in Friday Harbor, WA. For additional information regarding the district, log onto www.sanjuanisland.org.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by Stevens 1: The dist (population 12,000) seeks exper candidates for Fire Chief to lead the combination fire dept consisting of 65

volunteers and a career staff of six. The dist, covering 373 sq mi, is an urban/rural community about 20 minutes north of the city of Spokane. The dist provides suppression, rescue, emergency medical & fire prevention svcs from 8 stations. With a budget of \$1.5 million the dept responded to nearly 2,000 calls for service in 2006. Candidates for this position should have a min of 15 yrs exper in fire-fighting work serving at least 2 yrs as Capt or a Chief Officer & be certified at the EMT basic level. Exper w/combination fire district/dept preferred. Exc leadership & mgmt skills & proficiency in oral & written communications is required. Bachelor's degree or higher is desired; an Associate's degree will be considered. Certification as or meet the req of NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I & II & ability to pass the district's background investigation is required. Candidates must not have been convicted of a crime or released from prison w/i the past 10 years. Salary range is \$60,000-\$88,000 DOQ plus competitive benefits. To obtain a full package outlining add'l "desired qualifications for the successful applicant" & an application for employment, please contact Beth Smith, Office Clerk, at 509.262.9660 Ext. 304. Applications & resumes must be returned to the fire district not later than 1630 on April 30, 2007.



Washington Fire Commissioners Association Saturday Seminar Series

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association is offering the following educational programs to members. For complete information on classes, locations, etc., please refer to the brochure that was mailed to you in early March, log onto www.wfca.wa.gov, or call the WFCA office at 1.800.941.9322.

SEMINAR DATES, LOCATIONS & TOPICS

April 14
Doubletree Hotel
in Spokane
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Class Topics

1. Strategic Financial Planning & Budgeting
2. Fire District Finances & Bonds

April 28
Quinault Beach Resort
in Ocean Shores
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Class Topics

1. Strategic Financial Planning & Budgeting
2. Fire District Finances & Bonds

Please join Mercer Health & Benefits from 4 - 6 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

June 2
Campbell's Resort
in Chelan
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Class Topics

1. Effective Communication with the Public: A Toolkit Approach
2. Legislative Recap

WFCA Health Care Manager Tom Treves will be available for consultations during breaks.

REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee for all seminars includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$105.00

\$115.00 (at the door)

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$205.00

\$215.00 (at the door)

- Handout of workshop material, continental breakfast and late registration will begin at 8 a.m.
- Please give 48 hours' notice for registration refunds from the WFCA.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return completed registration form to the WFCA office at P. O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507; you may also fax your registration to 360.664.0415 or email specifics to wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

Sign Me Up for the Seminar I've checked:

☐ Spokane—April 14

☐ Ocean Shores—April 28

☐ Chelan—June 2

County FPD No. _____

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

☐ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

☐ Bill District

WASHINGTON FIRE
COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 134
OLYMPIA WA 98507

(360) 943-3880
1-800-491-WFCA (9322)
FAX (360) 664-0415

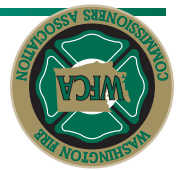
WFCA@WFCA.WA.GOV
WWW.WFCA.WA.GOV

LOCATION

605 11TH AVE. S.E.
SUITE 205

OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY



WASHINGTON
FIRE COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 134
OLYMPIA WA 98507

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